

Application No. : 10/669,677
Filed : September 23, 2003

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 5-10, 12, 13 and 19-26 were pending in the application. By this paper,
5 Applicant has canceled Claims 12, 13 and 19 - 26 without prejudice, and added new Claims 27 -
43. Accordingly, Claims 1, 2, 5 - 10 and 27 - 43 are presented for examination herein.

Allowed Claims

Claims 1, 2 and 5 - 10 - Per page 4 (paragraph 10) of the Office Action, Claims 1, 2 and
10 5 - 10 stand allowed.

New Claims

Per this Office Action response, Applicant has added new Claims 27 - 43. Applicant
notes that new independent Claims 27 and 35 closely correspond to the subject matter of allowed
15 Claim 1, while new independent Claims 32 and 40 closely correspond to the subject matter
allowed in Claim 8. Hence, Applicant submits that Claims 27-43 are in condition for allowance
as well.

§112 Rejections

20 **Claim 26** - Per page 2 of the Office Action, Claim 26 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C.
112, second paragraph. Applicant has herein cancelled Claim 26 without prejudice, thereby
rendering this rejection moot.

§102/§103 Rejections

25 **Claims 12, 13 and 19 - 26** - Per this Office Action, Claims 12, 13 and 19 - 26 stand
rejected under either 35 U.S.C. 102 and/or alternatively 35 U.S.C. 103 according to various
references set forth by the Examiner. Per this response, Applicant has cancelled Claims 12, 13
and 19 - 26 without prejudice, thereby rendering the Examiner's rejections moot.

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Other Remarks

Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner pass this case to allowance at the earliest opportunity.

Applicant hereby specifically reserves the right to prosecute claims of different or broader scope in a continuation or divisional application.

Applicant notes that any claim cancellations or additions made herein are made solely for the purposes of more clearly and particularly describing and claiming the invention and responding to the aforementioned restriction election, and not for purposes of overcoming art or for patentability. The Examiner should infer no (i) adoption of a position with respect to patentability, (ii) change in the Applicant's position with respect to any claim or subject matter of the invention, or (iii) acquiescence in any way to any position taken by the Examiner, based on such cancellations or additions.

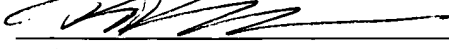
Furthermore, any remarks made with respect to a given claim or claims are limited solely to such claim or claims.

If the Examiner has any questions or comments which may be resolved over the telephone, he is requested to call the undersigned at (858) 675-1670.

Respectfully submitted,

GAZDZINSKI & ASSOCIATES

Dated: July 19, 2006

By: 
Robert F. Gazdzinski
Registration No. 39,990
11440 West Bernardo Court, Suite 375
San Diego, CA 92127
Telephone No.: (858) 675-1670
Facsimile No.: (858) 675-1674